

1 S.283

2 Introduced by Committee on Education

3 Date:

4 Subject: Education; miscellaneous

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make
6 miscellaneous changes to education laws.

7 An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education laws

8 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

9 * * * Community College of Vermont In-State Tuition for Refugees * * *

10 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2185 is amended to read:

11 § 2185. DETERMINATION OF RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

12 (a) The Board of Trustees shall adopt policies related to residency for
13 tuition purposes, consistent with State and federal requirements.

14 (b) Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty who is
15 transferred to Vermont for duty other than for the purpose of education shall,
16 upon transfer and for the period of active duty served in Vermont, be
17 considered a resident for in-state tuition purposes at the start of the next
18 semester or academic period.

19 (c) For determination of residency for tuition purposes for the Community
20 College of Vermont, a person who resides in Vermont and meets the definition

1 of “refugee” under 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(42) shall, upon arrival in Vermont and
2 for the period of residency in Vermont, be considered a resident for in-state
3 tuition purposes at the start of the next semester or academic period.

4 * * * Suspension or Expulsion of Students * * *

5 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1162 is amended to read:

6 § 1162. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

7 (a) A superintendent or principal may, pursuant to policies adopted by the
8 school board that are consistent with State Board rules, suspend a student for
9 up to 10 school days or, with the approval of the board of the school district,
10 expel a student for up to the remainder of the school year or up to 90 school
11 days, whichever is longer, for misconduct:

12 (1) on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored activity
13 when the misconduct makes the continued presence of the student harmful to
14 the welfare of the school;

15 (2) not on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored
16 activity where direct harm to the welfare of the school can be demonstrated; or

17 (3) not on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored
18 activity where the misconduct can be shown to pose a clear and substantial
19 interference with another student’s equal access to educational programs.

20 (b) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent a superintendent or
21 principal, subject to subsequent due process procedures, from removing

1 immediately from a school a student who poses a continuing danger to persons
2 or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process of the
3 school, or from expelling a student who brings a weapon to school pursuant to
4 section 1166 of this title.

5 (c) Principals, superintendents, and school boards are authorized and
6 encouraged to provide alternative education services or programs to students
7 during any period of suspension or expulsion authorized under this section.

8 (d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this chapter, a student
9 enrolled in a public school, approved independent school, or prequalified
10 private prekindergarten program who is under eight years of age shall not be
11 suspended or expelled from the school; provided, however, that the school may
12 suspend or expel the student if the student poses an imminent threat of harm or
13 danger to others in the school.

14 * * * Entrance Age Threshold for Public School Kindergarten * * *

15 Sec. 3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPACT OF
16 STANDARDIZING THE ENTRANCE AGE THRESHOLD FOR
17 PUBLIC SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN

18 On or before December 15, 2022, the Agency of Education shall issue a
19 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the impact
20 of standardizing the entrance age threshold for public school kindergarten
21 attendance. In preparing the report, the Agency of Education shall consult

1 with the Vermont Department for Children and Families, the Vermont
2 Department of Health, the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont
3 Principals' Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, and the
4 Vermont National Education Association. The report shall include any
5 recommendations for legislative action.

6 * * * Statewide Uniform School Calendar * * *

7 Sec. 4. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A STATEWIDE
8 UNIFORM SCHOOL CALENDAR

9 On or before January 15, 2023, the Agency of Education shall issue a
10 written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education on the impact
11 of creating a statewide uniform school calendar that shall include student
12 attendance days, periods of vacation, holidays, and teacher in-service
13 education days. The report shall include any recommendations for legislative
14 action.

15 * * * Effective Date * * *

16 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on passage.